

ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

524 South Second Street, Springfield 62701-1787

Jim Edgar, Governor ● Brent Manning, Director

June 24, 1996

Mr. William Elzinga
Environmental Science & Engineering, Inc
11665 Lilburn Park Road
St. Louis, Mo. 63146-3535

RE: U.S. Rt. 34
Location Study
Gulfport to Monmouth-Il.
Job No. P-94-030-95

Dear Mr. Elzinga:

The Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the Illinois Natural Heritage Database for the presence of endangered or threatened species, Illinois Nature Preserves, or Illinois Natural Areas Inventory sites. There are known occurrences of these resources within the vicinity of the project area. Below you will find a list of these resources.

Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site: New Crystal Lake Club-- This site is located north of the railroad tracks on the north side of Gulfport. An area with this designation (INAI) contains a diverse habitat quality which has known occurrence of threatened and endangered species within its boundaries. It is not known if the project will impact this area until a more defined corridor is established.

Henderson County State Conservation Area: This area is located north of U.S. 34 several miles and contains several listed species. The Illinois mud turtle (endangered) and the Western hognose snake (threatened) are known to occur in this area. It is doubtful that the project would reach that far north but should be included in any potential impacts.

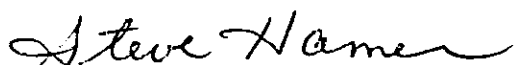
Wetlands: Wetlands occur all along the corridor. Avoidance of these wetlands should be incorporated in the project design. If the avoidance of wetlands can not be fulfilled, then minimizing the impacts and mitigation of the impacts should follow the Interagency Wetland Policy Act of 1989.

To further assist you in determining the location of the database information as outlined above, I've attached a map to more specifically identify their location in proximity to the project.

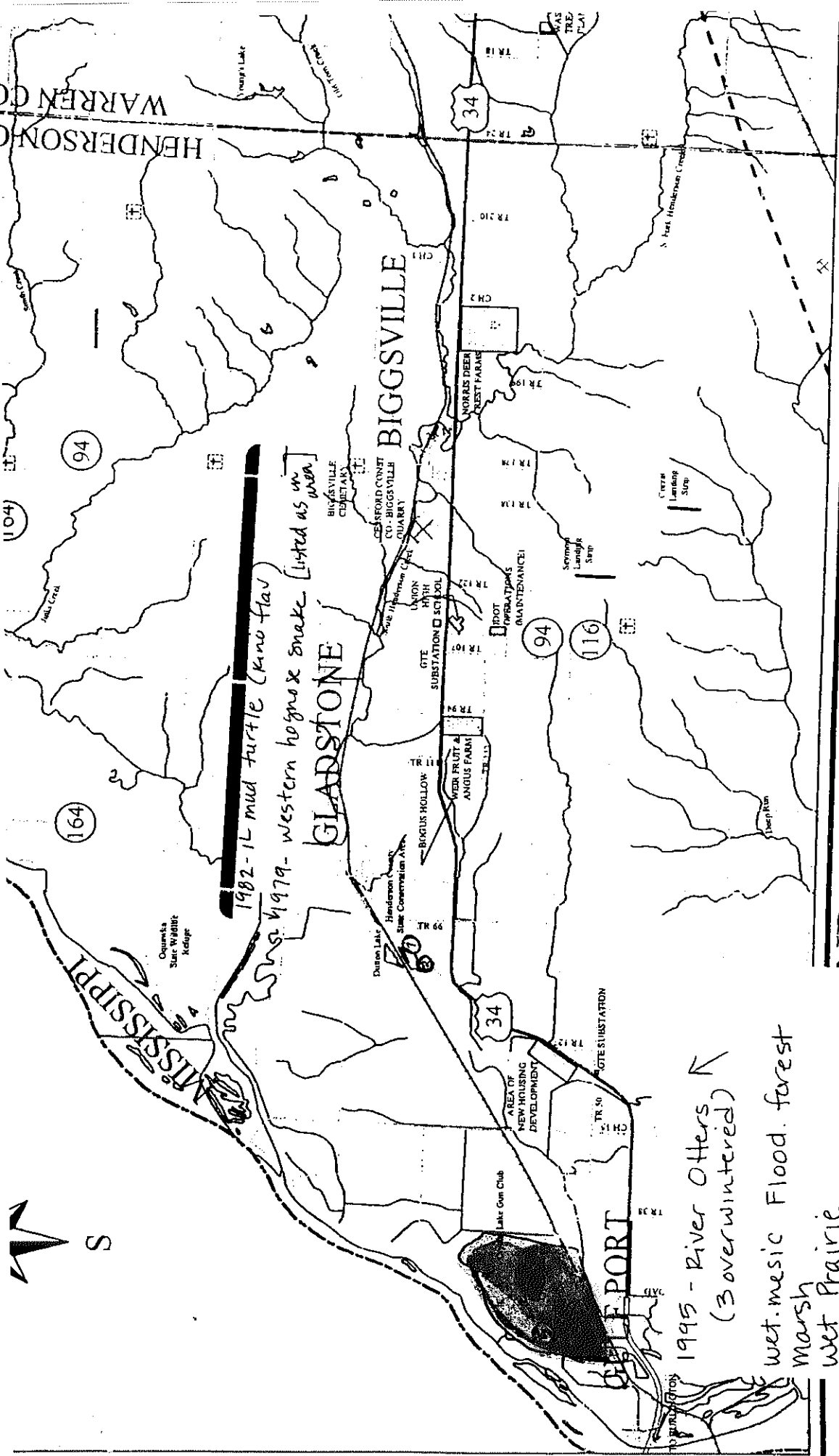
Please be aware that the Illinois Natural Heritage Database cannot provide a conclusive statement on the presence, absence or condition of significant features in any part of Illinois. The reports only summarize the existing information regarding the natural features or locations in question known to the Division of Natural Heritage at the time of inquiry. The reports should not be regarded as final statements on the site being considered, nor should they be a substitute for field surveys required for environmental assessments.

Please provide additional information as it becomes available in order that we may continue the review process. If you have any questions on the above, please contact me at 217-785-5500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Hamer".

Steve Hamer
Transportation Review Program
Division of Natural Resource Review and Coordination



ND

Streams & Rivers



Cemetery

Transmission Corridor

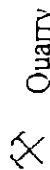


School

County Line



Natural Areas of Concern



Quarry

Airport



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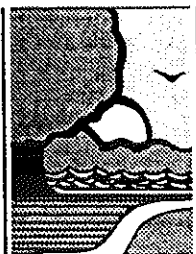
Miles

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Kilometer



ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

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524 South Second Street, Springfield 62701-1787

George H. Ryan, Governor ● Brent Manning, Director

June 18, 1999

Ms. Elizabeth Felling
QST Environmental, Inc.
11665 Lilburn Park Road
St. Louis, MO 63146-3535

RE: U. S. Rt. 34
Location Study
Gulfport to Monmouth
Job No. P-94-030-95

Attention: Kris Erickson

Dear Ms. Felling:

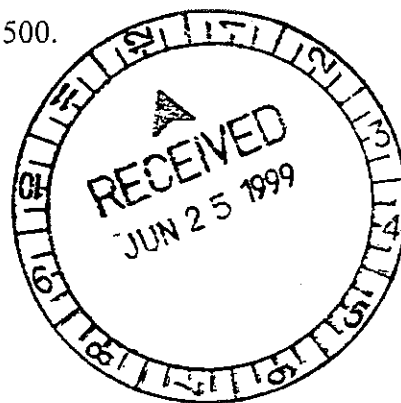
The Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the Illinois Natural Heritage Database for the presence of endangered or threatened species, Illinois Nature Preserves, or Illinois Natural Areas Inventory sites for any additions since the last review. There are no new occurrences, therefore the previous letter dated June 24, 1996 is still sufficient as an update on resources present. It should be noted that your letter references coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and should refer to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Please be aware that the Illinois Natural Heritage Database cannot provide a conclusive statement on the presence, absence or condition of significant features in any part of Illinois. The reports only summarize the existing information regarding the natural features or locations in question known to the Division of Natural Heritage at the time of inquiry. The reports should not be regarded as final statements on the site being considered, nor should they be a substitute for field surveys required for environmental assessments.

If you have any questions on the above, please contact me at 217-785-5500.

Sincerely,

Steve Hamer
Transportation Review Program
Division of Natural Resource Review and Coordination





ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF

NATURAL RESOURCES

524 South Second Street, Springfield 62701-1787

George H. Ryan, Governor • Brent Manning, Director

RECEIVED

SEP 12 2001

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION PROGRAM
AGENCY ACTION REPORT

Date Submitted: September 5, 2001

Is this a Resubmittal? ☒ Yes ☐ No Please circle one

If 'Yes', enter PROJCODE: 40574

PROJCODE: 3106318

Date Due: 10-27-01

For Office Use Only

Agency Name: Illinois Department of Transportation
Contact Person: Greg Larsen
Agency Address: Environmental Unit
401 Main Street, Peoria, IL 61602-1111

Phone: 309-671-

E-mail: _____

DESCRIBE PRECISE LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION

Project Name: FA 313 (US 34)

County(ies): Henderson and Warren

City/Town: Gulfport to Monmouth

Township/Range/Section: Various

U.S.G.S. Quad Map Name(s): Burlington, Gladstone, Kirkwood West & East, Monmouth, & Cameron

Brief Description of the Proposed Action: Construction of a new four-lane facility from Gulfport to Monmouth. Approx. 600 acres of new right of way required.

Please enclose a map delineating the location of the proposed action, and return to Dr. Deanna Glosser at the SPRINGFIELD address above.

FOR NATURAL RESOURCE REVIEW & COORDINATION USE ONLY

QUADCODE(S): _____

Are there threatened/endangered species or natural areas located within the vicinity of the project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Is the proposed project likely to adversely affect the threatened/endangered species or INAI sites? ☐ Yes ☒ No

The consultation process is terminated? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If 'No', complete the enclosed Detailed Agency Action Report to continue the consultation process.

Comments: There are no new resources identified since the initial review. See maps attached.

Evaluation Approved by:

Deanna Glosser, Ph.D.

Chief, Div. of Natural Resource Review & Coordination

10-9-01
Date



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
 Rock Island Field Office (ES)
 4469 - 48th Avenue Court
 Rock Island, Illinois 61201

COM: 309/793-5800
 FAX: 309/793-5804

July 1, 1996

William Elzinga
 Environmental Task Manager
 Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
 11665 Lilburn Park Road
 St. Louis, Missouri 63146-3535

Dear Mr. Elzinga:

This responds to your letter of June 4, 1996, requesting our comments on the proposed improvement of the existing two lanes of U.S. Route 34 to four-lane divided highway. The study corridor is approximately 24 miles in length and extends from Gulfport, Henderson County, to Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois.

With respect to federally listed and proposed threatened or endangered species, the proposed project is within the known or potential range of the following species:

Classification	Common Name	(Scientific Name)	Habitat
Threatened	Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Wintering
Endangered	Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Caves, mines; small stream corridors with well developed riparian woods; upland forests
Threatened	Mead's milkweed	<i>Asclepias meadii</i>	Virgin prairies
Threatened	Eastern prairie fringed orchid	<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>	Mesic to wet prairies

The threatened bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is listed as wintering along large rivers, lakes and reservoirs in *Henderson County, Illinois (* county that contains night roosts). During

William Elzinga

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the winter, this species feeds on fish in the open water areas created by dam tailwaters, the warm water effluents of power plants and municipal and industrial discharges, or in power plant cooling ponds. The more severe the winter, the greater the ice coverage and the more concentrated the eagles become. They roost at night in groups in large trees adjacent to the river in areas that are protected from the harsh winter elements. They perch in large shoreline trees to rest or feed on fish. There is no critical habitat designated for this species. The eagle may not be harassed, harmed or disturbed when present nor may nest trees be cleared.

The endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) is listed as occurring in Henderson County in Illinois and could potentially occur throughout the state. During the summer, the Indiana bat frequents the corridors of small streams with well developed riparian woods as well as mature upland forests. It forages for insects along the stream corridor, within the canopy of floodplain and upland forests, over clearings with early successional vegetation (old fields), along the borders of croplands, along wooded fencerows, and over farm ponds and in pastures. It has been shown that the foraging range for the bats varies by season, age and sex and ranges up to 81 acres (33ha). It roosts and rears its young beneath the loose bark of large dead or dying trees. It winters in caves and abandoned mines.

Suitable summer habitat in Iowa and Illinois is considered to have the following characteristics within a 1/2 mile radius of the project site:

- 1) forest cover of 15% or greater;
- 2) permanent water;
- 3) one or more of the following tree species 11 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) or greater: shagbark and shellbark hickory that may be dead or alive, and dead bitternut hickory, American elm, slippery elm, eastern cottonwood, silver maple, white oak, red oak, post oak, and shingle oak with slabs or plates of loose bark;
- 4) at least 1 potential roost tree per 2.5 acres;
- 5) potential roost trees must have greater than 10% coverage of loose bark (by visual estimation of peeling bark on trunks and main limbs).

If the project site contains any habitat that fits the above description, it may be necessary to conduct a survey to determine whether the bat is present. If Indiana bats are known to be present, they must not be harmed, harassed or disturbed when present. Indiana bat habitat may be altered (i.e. trees cleared) only between the dates of September 1 and April 30.

William Elzinga

The Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*) is listed as threatened and may potentially occur in Henderson County, Illinois, based on historical records and habitat distribution. There is no critical habitat designated for this species. Federal regulations prohibit any commercial activity involving this species or the destruction, malicious damage or removal of this species from Federal land or any other lands in knowing violation of State law or regulation, including State criminal trespass law. This species should be searched for whenever prairie remnants are encountered.

The eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) is listed as threatened and may potentially occur in Henderson County, Illinois. It occupies wet grassland habitats. There is no critical habitat designated for this species. Federal regulations prohibit any commercial activity involving this species or the destruction, malicious damage or removal of this species from Federal land or any other lands in knowing violation of State law or regulation, including State criminal trespass law. This species should be searched for whenever wet prairie remnants are encountered.

National Wetland Inventory maps indicate that there are wetlands within and adjacent to the project area (see enclosed maps). The Corps of Engineers is the Federal agency responsible for wetland determinations, and we recommend that you contact them for assistance in delineating the wetland types and acreage within the project boundary. Priority consideration should be given to avoid impacts to these wetland areas. Any future activities in the study area that would alter these wetlands may require a Section 404 permit. Unavoidable impacts will require a mitigation plan to compensate for any losses of wetland functions and values. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois, 61201, should be contacted for information about the permit process.

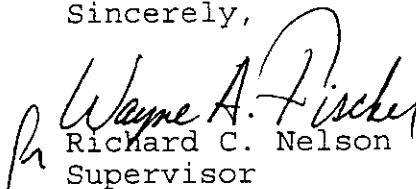
These comments provide technical assistance only and do not fulfill the requirements under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, unless you have been designated, in writing, to the Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3, by the appropriate Federal agency, as a non-Federal representative for the purposes of conducting informal consultation on the subject Federal action, pursuant to 50 CFR 402.08.

William Elzinga

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments early in the planning process. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Heidi Woeber of my staff.

Sincerely,


Richard C. Nelson
Supervisor

Enclosures

HW:am